

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0178

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR CRESPO REVIEWS HIS CONSULTATIONS
IN LA PAZ

1. BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US, ALBERTO CRESPO, CALLED
ON ME AT HIS REQUEST JANUARY 6 TO REVIEW HIS ROUND OF
CONSULTATIONS IN LA PAZ. HIGHLIGHTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. HE DISCUSSED US PRISONERS WITH PRESIDENT BANZER. CRESPO
SAID HE DESCRIBED INCREASING US CONCERNS ANE PRESSURES,
ESPECIALLY REGARDING PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF US
CITIZENS WHOSE OFFENSES WERE MINOR. HE SAID HE SUGGESTED
GOB FIND WAYS TO RESOLVE MINOR CASES PROMPTLY AND RELEASE
US CITIZENS FOR RETURN TO US. PRESIDENT GAVE GENERAL CON-
CURRENCE, ACCORDING TO CRESPO, AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO RAISE
MATTER WITH MINKSTER OF INTERIOR.

B. CRESPO SAID HE RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT
BANZER. CRESPO ASKED THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED TO CALL ON
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AND PROPOSE THAT
WHENEVER AI WISHED TO INQUIRE ABOUT A VIOLATION, HE WOULD
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BE GLAD TO RESPOND. CRESPO TOLD PRESIDENT THAT HE WOULD NEED
TO HAVE SUPPORT FROM GOB IN FURNISHING INFORMATION PROMPTLY.
THE PRESIDENT, CRESPO SAID, AGREED AND TOLD HIM TO WORK OUT
SYSTEM FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION WITH MINSTER OF INTERIOR.

C. TIN WAS DISCUSSED WITH KEY MINISTRY OF MINES OFFICIALS.
GOB IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT "TOUGH" US POSITION, HE REPORTED.

BOLIVIA WISHES TO HAVE HIGHER RANGE OF PRICES FOR BUFFER STOCK BUYING AND SELLING IN FIFTH TIN AGREEMENT TO FOMENT NEW INVESTMENT, WHICH IS REQUIRED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND, IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, TO DECREASE COSTS. CRESPO SAID HE TOLD MINISTRY OF MINES OFFICIALS THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT US CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE NEW STOCKPILE AUTHORIZATION. HE EXPRESSED TO ME HIS HOPE THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE MTDEST; THAT GSA WOULD MANAGE SALES SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT MARKET; AND THAT US CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD EARLIER THAN IN PAST.

2. CRESPO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO WAS TRAVELING IN INTERIOR. HE EXPECTS TO SEE HIM IN WASHINGTON. CRESPO SAID HE WAS INFORMED BY PRESIDENT BANZER THAT INTERIOR MINISTER WOULD VISIT WASHINGTON BUT MINISTER WISHED TO KEEP VISIT CONFIDENTIAL. BANZER BELIEVES VISIT WILL INCLUDE CALL ON DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHICH PRESIDENT BELIEVES WILL BE VERY USEFUL AS MEANS TO ACHIEVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON SUCH TOPICS AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND US PRISONERS.

3. AMBASSADOR CRESPO TOLD ME THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE INCREASED FEARS IN LA PAZ ABOUT WAR BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. HE SAID FRIENDS WHO RECENTLY VISITED IN LIMA REPORTED THAT PERUVIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT HAVING AIR RAID DRILLS. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT GOB WILL, NONETHELESS, DECIDE TO USE FY77 FMS CREDIT FOR ANOTHER C-130 AIRCRAFT.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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